

See enlarged map on inside page for hunt and time zones with county names.

Zone A. Hunting Hours Table.

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (adjusted for Daylight Savings Time).

| 2003 | September | | October | | November | | December | | 2004 | January | | February | |
|------|-----------|------|---------|------|----------|------|----------|------|------|---------|------|----------|------|
| Date | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | Date | AM | PM | AM | PM |
| 1 | 6:29 | 8:10 | 7:02 | 7:17 | 6:39 | 5:27 | 7:16 | 5:01 | 1 | 7:36 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 5:47 |
| 2 | 6:30 | 8:08 | 7:03 | 7:15 | 6:40 | 5:26 | 7:17 | 5:01 | 2 | 7:36 | 5:11 | 7:19 | 5:48 |
| 3 | 6:31 | 8:07 | 7:04 | 7:13 | 6:41 | 5:24 | 7:18 | 5:01 | 3 | 7:36 | 5:12 | 7:18 | 5:49 |
| 4 | 6:32 | 8:05 | 7:05 | 7:11 | 6:43 | 5:23 | 7:19 | 5:00 | 4 | 7:36 | 5:13 | 7:17 | 5:51 |
| 5 | 6:33 | 8:03 | 7:06 | 7:10 | 6:44 | 5:22 | 7:20 | 5:00 | 5 | 7:36 | 5:14 | 7:16 | 5:52 |
| 6 | 6:34 | 8:01 | 7:07 | 7:08 | 6:45 | 5:21 | 7:21 | 5:00 | 6 | 7:36 | 5:15 | 7:15 | 5:53 |
| 7 | 6:35 | 8:00 | 7:09 | 7:06 | 6:47 | 5:20 | 7:22 | 5:00 | 7 | 7:36 | 5:16 | 7:14 | 5:55 |
| 8 | 6:36 | 7:58 | 7:10 | 7:04 | 6:48 | 5:19 | 7:23 | 5:00 | 8 | 7:36 | 5:17 | 7:12 | 5:56 |
| 9 | 6:37 | 7:56 | 7:11 | 7:03 | 6:49 | 5:17 | 7:24 | 5:00 | 9 | 7:36 | 5:18 | 7:11 | 5:57 |
| 10 | 6:39 | 7:54 | 7:12 | 7:01 | 6:50 | 5:16 | 7:25 | 5:00 | 10 | 7:35 | 5:19 | 7:10 | 5:59 |
| 11 | 6:40 | 7:52 | 7:13 | 6:59 | 6:52 | 5:15 | 7:26 | 5:00 | 11 | 7:35 | 5:20 | | |
| 12 | 6:41 | 7:51 | 7:14 | 6:58 | 6:53 | 5:14 | 7:27 | 5:00 | 12 | 7:35 | 5:21 | | |
| 13 | 6:42 | 7:49 | 7:16 | 6:56 | 6:54 | 5:13 | 7:27 | 5:00 | 13 | 7:34 | 5:22 | | |
| 14 | 6:43 | 7:47 | 7:17 | 6:54 | 6:56 | 5:12 | 7:28 | 5:00 | 14 | 7:34 | 5:24 | | |
| 15 | 6:44 | 7:45 | 7:18 | 6:53 | 6:57 | 5:11 | 7:29 | 5:01 | 15 | 7:34 | 5:25 | | |
| 16 | 6:45 | 7:43 | 7:19 | 6:51 | 6:58 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 5:01 | 16 | 7:33 | 5:26 | | |
| 17 | 6:46 | 7:42 | 7:20 | 6:49 | 6:59 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 5:01 | 17 | 7:33 | 5:27 | | |
| 18 | 6:47 | 7:40 | 7:22 | 6:48 | 7:01 | 5:09 | 7:31 | 5:02 | 18 | 7:32 | 5:28 | | |
| 19 | 6:48 | 7:38 | 7:23 | 6:46 | 7:02 | 5:08 | 7:32 | 5:02 | 19 | 7:31 | 5:30 | | |
| 20 | 6:49 | 7:36 | 7:24 | 6:45 | 7:03 | 5:07 | 7:32 | 5:02 | 20 | 7:31 | 5:31 | | |
| 21 | 6:51 | 7:34 | 7:25 | 6:43 | 7:04 | 5:06 | 7:33 | 5:03 | 21 | 7:30 | 5:32 | | |
| 22 | 6:52 | 7:33 | 7:26 | 6:42 | 7:06 | 5:06 | 7:33 | 5:03 | 22 | 7:29 | 5:34 | | |
| 23 | 6:53 | 7:31 | 7:28 | 6:40 | 7:07 | 5:05 | 7:34 | 5:04 | 23 | 7:29 | 5:35 | | |
| 24 | 6:54 | 7:29 | 7:29 | 6:38 | 7:08 | 5:04 | 7:34 | 5:04 | 24 | 7:28 | 5:36 | | |
| 25 | 6:55 | 7:27 | 7:30 | 6:37 | 7:09 | 5:04 | 7:35 | 5:05 | 25 | 7:27 | 5:37 | | |
| 26 | 6:56 | 7:25 | 6:31 | 5:35 | 7:10 | 5:03 | 7:35 | 5:06 | 26 | 7:26 | 5:39 | | |
| 27 | 6:57 | 7:24 | 6:33 | 5:34 | 7:12 | 5:03 | 7:35 | 5:06 | 27 | 7:25 | 5:40 | | |
| 28 | 6:58 | 7:22 | 6:34 | 5:33 | 7:13 | 5:02 | 7:35 | 5:07 | 28 | 7:24 | 5:41 | | |
| 29 | 6:59 | 7:20 | 6:35 | 5:31 | 7:14 | 5:02 | 7:36 | 5:08 | 29 | 7:24 | 5:43 | | |
| 30 | 7:01 | 7:18 | 6:36 | 5:30 | 7:15 | 5:02 | 7:36 | 5:09 | 30 | 7:22 | 5:44 | | |
| 31 | | | 6:38 | 5:29 | | | 7:36 | 5:09 | 31 | 7:22 | 5:45 | | |

IC 2002 (Rev. 08/18/03)

MICHIGAN WATERFOWL HUNTING GUIDE

2003–2004 SEASONS



Important Changes for 2003:

- Youth Waterfowl Weekend Sept. 20–21.
- Canvasback and pintail season is 30 days.
- Goose season expanded in MVP Unit.
- Falconry season adjusted.
- HIP survey (see inside note).



www.michigan.gov/dnr

Seasons and Daily Limits

| SPECIES | ZONES/UNITS | OPEN SEASONS (all dates inclusive) | BAG LIMITS | | GMU HARVEST QUOTAS | NOTES |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | | | DAILY | POSSESSION | | |
| DUCKS & MERGANSERS (see Note "a" for canvasbacks and pintails) | North Zone | Sept. 27–Nov. 25 | 6 | 12 | — | a, b, c |
| | Middle Zone | Oct. 4–Nov. 30 and Jan. 3–4 | | | | |
| | South Zone | Oct. 11–Dec. 7 and Jan. 3–4 | | | | |
| COOTS AND MOORHENS | Same season dates as ducks in the respective zones. | | 15 | 30 | — | c |
| SNIFE AND RAILS | Statewide | Sept. 15–Nov. 14 | 8 | 16 | — | c, d |
| CANADA GEESE Early Season | North Zone | Sept. 1–10 | 5 | 10 | — | e |
| | Middle & South Zones | Sept. 1–15 | | | | |
| CANADA GEESE Regular Season | SJBP Unit | Sept. 20–Oct. 12 and Dec. 13–19 | 2 | 4 | — | f |
| | MVP Unit | Sept. 20–Nov. 6 and Dec. 13–19 | | | | |
| CANADA GEESE Local Goose Management Unit Seasons | Allegan Co. GMU | Nov. 1–9 and Dec. 13–Jan. 22 | 1 | 2 | 3,000 | g |
| | Muskegon W.W. GMU | Oct. 16–Nov. 14 and Dec. 2–21 | 2 | 4 | 1,000 | |
| | Saginaw Co. GMU | Oct. 11–Nov. 29 | 1 | 2 | 2,000 | |
| | Tuscola/Huron GMU | Oct. 11–Nov. 29 | 1 | 2 | 750 | |
| CANADA GEESE Late Season | South Zone (excluding local GMUs) | Jan. 3–Feb. 1, 2004 | 5 | 10 | — | g |
| OTHER GEESE Snow, Blue, Ross | Statewide | Sept. 20–Dec. 7 | 10 | 30 | — | |
| White-fronted and Brant | | | 1 | 2 | | |

Notes/Exceptions

- The season on pintails is September 27 to October 26 in the North Zone, October 4 to November 2 in the Middle Zone, and October 11 to November 9 in the South Zone. The season on canvasbacks is October 27 to November 25 in the North Zone, November 3 to November 30 and January 3 and 4 in the Middle Zone, and November 10 to December 7 and January 3 and 4 in the South Zone.** See map on next page for North, Middle and South Zone descriptions.
- See daily limit restrictions for ducks and mergansers. The merganser daily limit is in addition to the duck daily limit.
- See Youth Waterfowl Weekend section on this page for requirements.
- Daily limit is 8 rails (Sora and Virginia combined) and 8 snipe. The possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Early goose season in Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron counties is Sept. 1–10 with a daily limit of 2 and possession limit of 4. See Hunting and Trapping Guide for details on Early Goose Season in State Parks and Recreation Areas.
- Excludes local Goose Management Units (GMUs). See Map on inside page for Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) Unit and Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) Unit boundaries.
- Local goose Management Unit (GMU) boundaries are shown on inside page of this guide. Local GMU seasons will end before listed ending dates if harvest quotas are reached. Although a portion of the Allegan Co. GMU season will be held in January, local GMUs are not included in the Late Season.

Daily Limit For Ducks and Mergansers

The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a female), 3 scaup, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and 1 black duck. The daily limit of 6 ducks may also include not more than 1 pintail and 1 canvasback during their 30-day open season. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is twice the daily limit for ducks and mergansers.

License and Waterfowl Stamp Requirements

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Michigan you must have a small game hunting license. Persons age 16 and older must also have a Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License (\$5.00) and a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp* (\$15.00).

Small game license options (only one required).

- Resident small game license \$14.00
- Resident senior small game license \$5.60
- Resident junior small game license \$1.00
(These licenses are not required for a resident, resident's spouse, or resident's children to hunt on their enclosed farmland on which they live.)
- Nonresident small game license \$65.00
- Nonresident 3-day small game license \$28.00

*The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp must be signed with your name across the face in ink. It is available at post offices and some Michigan license agents. All other items are available from license dealers or online from the DNR Web site: www.michigan.gov/dnr.

2003 Youth Waterfowl Weekend

Youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 20–21 statewide for properly licensed youths 12 to 15 years of age. The daily limit includes ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens. Youths must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated by their parent or guardian. The adult will not be allowed to hunt ducks, mergansers, coots or moorhens and will not be required to have a waterfowl hunting license (unless hunting geese). The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular season. Daily shooting hours are listed in the Migratory Bird Hunting Hours Table.

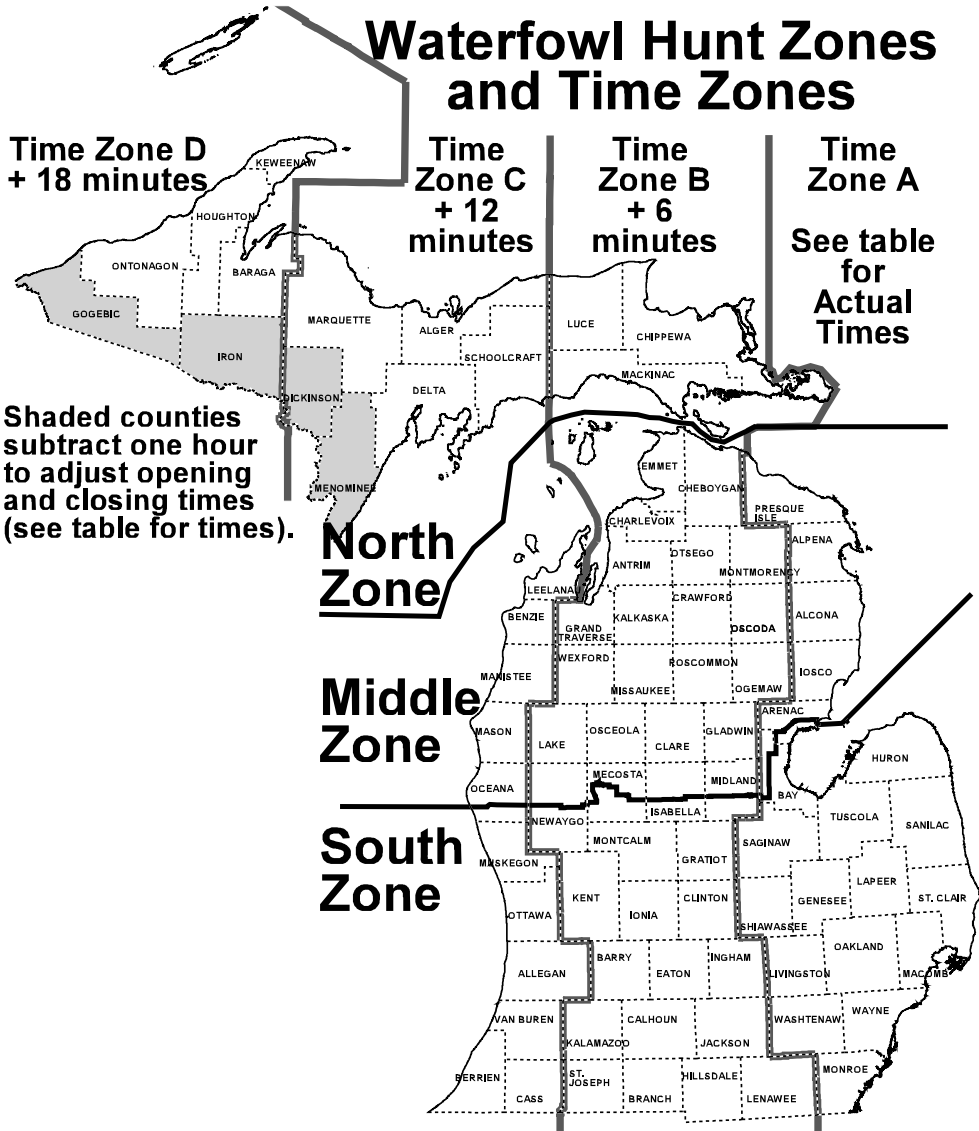
Hunting Zones and Shooting Hours

Michigan's North Zone for waterfowl hunting includes all of the Upper Peninsula (see Map below). The Middle Zone consists of the north half of the Lower Peninsula. The remainder of the Lower Peninsula is called the South Zone. The exact dividing line between the Middle and South Zones is described as follows:

That portion of the Lower Peninsula south of a line beginning at the Wisconsin border in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, east along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, east along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, north along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, east along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the AuGres River, then southerly along the centerline of the AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canada border.

Below is the map with waterfowl hunting zones and all four of Michigan's Waterfowling time zones. If hunting in **Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson** or **Menominee** counties that are on Central Time, you must adjust the listed times to Central Time.

Add the minutes indicated below to the times listed in Zone A table on last page of guide for the correct shooting and hawking hours in Zones B, C and D.



Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas

Permits are issued at several managed areas by drawings held at area check stations. A \$4.00 daily or \$13.00 annual permit fee is charged for use of areas with the word (Fee) shown below. The annual \$13.00 permit is accepted at all state areas; only dailys (**no annuals**) can be purchased at check stations. Some early season hunts are by reservation. Each year hunters may apply for reservations from August 1st through August 28th at license agents. Special rules are enforced, including shell limits, shot size limits, hunting party size, etc. Maps listing the special rules are available at the area check stations. Normal managed area drawings may be cancelled late in the season if extreme weather results in low hunter participation. Area managers will post amended check station hunting rules a minimum of two days prior to any changes. Late in the season, hunters may wish to call area headquarters to verify that drawings will be held. Use of waders, decoys, calls, retrievers (except Allegan) and small boats and motors is recommended. See below for additional details.

| Area | County and Nearest Town | Telephone Number | Drawing Times (Reserved Hunting Dates) | Youth Hunting Dates ^a |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| ALLEGAN Highbanks and FENNVILLE FARM | Allegan, Allegan | (269) 673-2430 | Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. at Fennville Farm check station for Farm/Highbanks hunts. | Nov. 1 (a.m. and p.m.) |
| | Allegan, Fennville | (269) 561-2258 | Hunt Highbanks Saturday, Sunday, and Monday only. (Fee) | |
| FISH POINT | Tuscola, Unionville | (989) 674-2511 | Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season) | Opening day (p.m.) |
| MUSKEGON COUNTY WASTEWATER | Muskegon, Twin Lake | (231) 788-5055 Call for opening date. | Hunts only on Tuesday (a.m.), Thursday (a.m.), Saturday (a.m. and p.m.) and Sunday (a.m. and p.m.) during the season. Drawings to select hunt zones are at 5:30 a.m. for morning and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. There will be no hunting Nov. 15–30. | Nov. 1 (a.m. and p.m.) |
| NAYANQUING POINT | Bay, Linwood | (989) 697-5101 | Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) | Opening day (p.m.) and Oct. 25 (p.m.) |
| POINTE MOUILLEE | Monroe, South Rockwood | (734) 379-9692 | Open hunting each day of season on most of game area. Managed Hunting Area permits issued opening day and Sunday and Wednesday only thereafter. Drawings these days are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) | Opening day (p.m.) and Nov. 1 (a.m.) |
| SHIAWASSEE RIVER | Saginaw, St. Charles | (989) 865-6211 | Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:00 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. Goose hunting permitted every a.m. in the week plus p.m. hours on weekends. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season) | Opening day (p.m.) |
| SHIAWASSEE FEDERAL REFUGE | Saginaw, Saginaw | (989) 777-5930 | Drawings to select hunt zones held 5:30 a.m. for morning hunt only. (Daily hunter charge is \$4.00.) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season) | Second weekend (Saturday and Sunday) |
| ST. CLAIR FLATS (HARSENS IS.) | St. Clair, Algonac | (810) 748-9504 | Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:30 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season) | Opening day (p.m.) and Nov. 6 (p.m.) |

^a**Youth Hunt:** Priority daily drawings are available for hunting parties with one or two parents or legal guardians 17 years of age or older and at least one youth 12–16. All youth participating in these priority hunts must be properly licensed to hunt. Only parties including youth hunters will be allowed to hunt at Allegan and Shiawassee Federal Refuge and ONLY Youths will be permitted to shoot during these hunts. Maximum party size for youth priority daily drawings is four except at Nayanquing Point wildlife area the maximum party size is three.

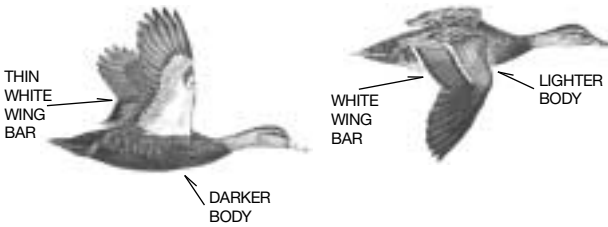
Identifying Ducks

Skill at identifying ducks in flight is important to limit harvest of less numerous duck species. Species with special restrictions are as follows:

Black Duck and Female Mallard—Both are restricted to one per day within the overall six-bird daily limit. Both birds have white underwings, but the black duck's darker body contrasts more sharply with the underwing than does the brown body of the female mallard. Mallards have white wing bars on both edges of the blue speculum. The black duck usually has none or only a thin white bar on the back edge of the speculum.

BLACK DUCK

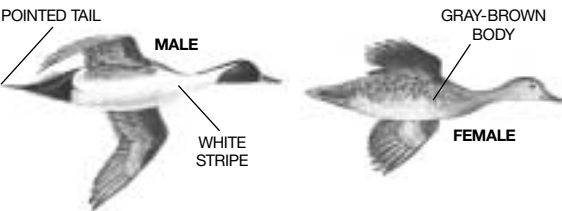
HEN MALLARD



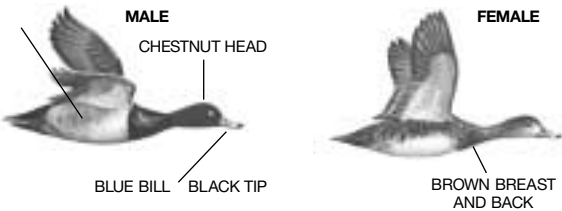
Wood Duck—This medium-sized duck frequents wooded ponds, streams and marshes statewide, especially early in the season. Drakes are very colorful, and hens and drakes have colorful wings with blue, maroon and silver hues. Calls are whistles and squeals. Two per day may be harvested.



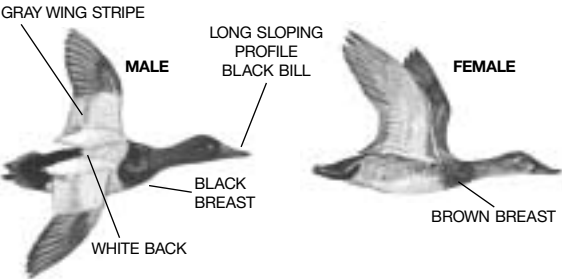
Pintail—Pintails are puddle ducks that frequent marshes. They are about the size of a mallard but slimmer in appearance. Few are well colored before December and most appear gray. The female wing speculum is cinnamon-colored, while the male speculum is green with a white trailing edge. **Only one pintail may be harvested per day during the 30-day open season.**



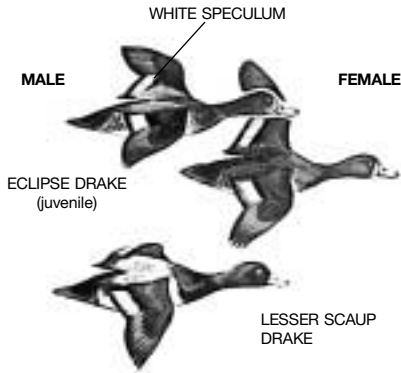
Redhead—This large diving duck has the shape of a mallard but is more uniformly brown or gray, with an unmarked gray wing speculum. Well-colored males have a chestnut red head. This bird frequents the open waters of large and small lakes like the canvasback. Two per day may be harvested.



Canvasback—This large, mallard-sized diving duck has a characteristic wedge-shaped head and is usually found on the open waters of large and small lakes. Well-colored males have a red head. **Only one canvasback may be harvested per day during 30-day open season.**



Scaup—These birds are medium to small diving ducks. Greater and lesser scaup (bluebill) appear nearly identical in the field, however the white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the tip in the greater scaup, but only about half way in the lesser. The limit for both species combined is 3 per day.

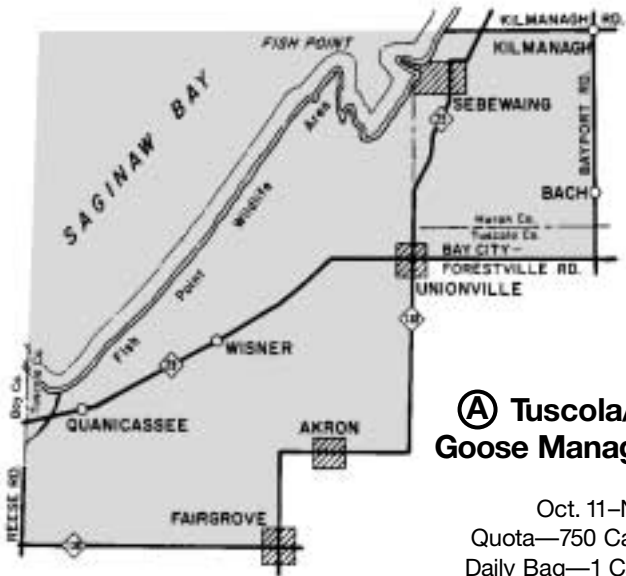


GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNIT REGULATIONS



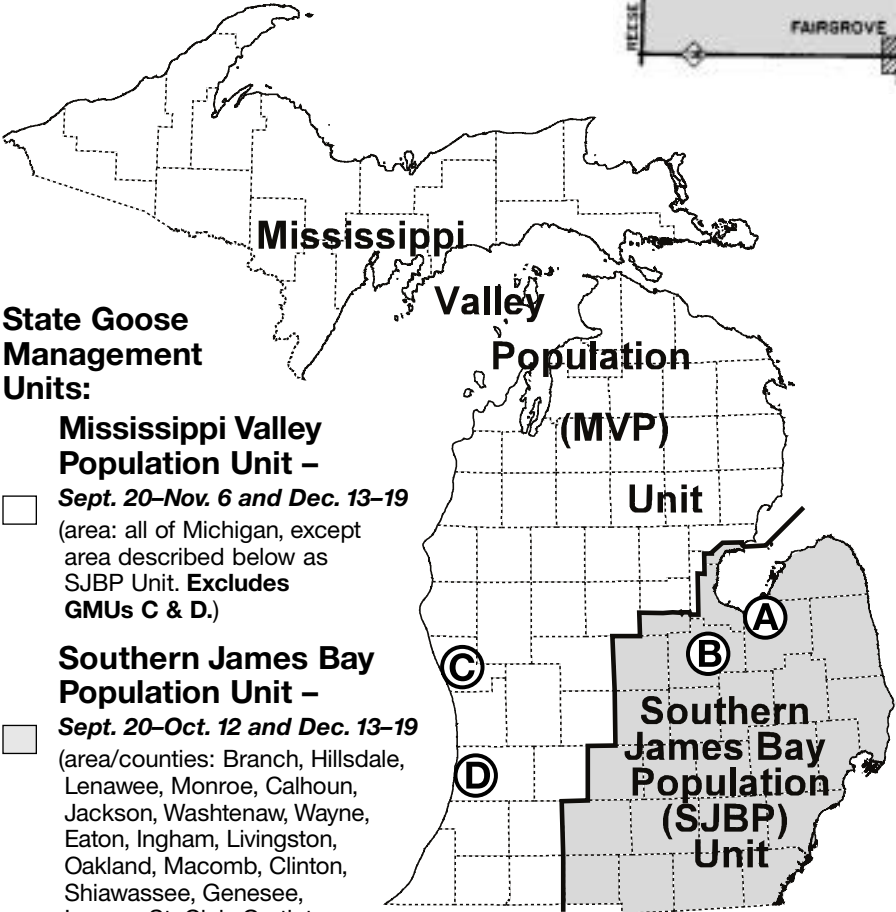
© Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit

Oct. 16–Nov. 14 and
Dec. 2–Dec. 21
Quota—1,000 Canada Geese
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese



Ⓐ Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Unit

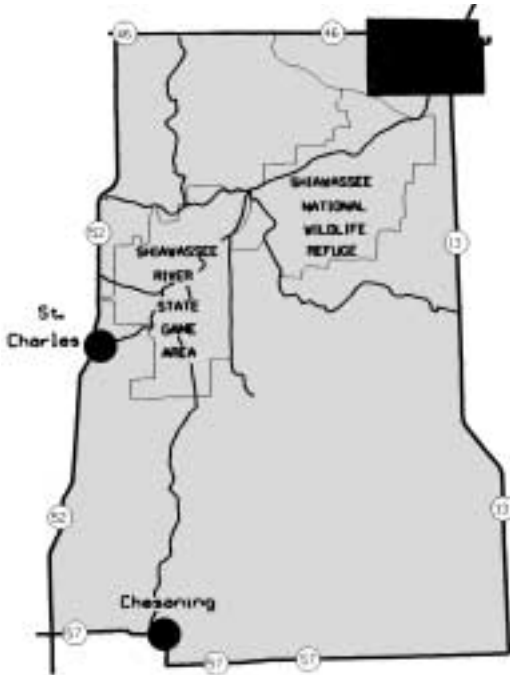
Oct. 11–Nov. 29
Quota—750 Canada Geese
Daily Bag—1 Canada Goose



State Goose Management Units:

Mississippi Valley Population Unit –
Sept. 20–Nov. 6 and Dec. 13–19
(area: all of Michigan, except area described below as SJB Unit. **Excludes GMUs C & D.**)

Southern James Bay Population Unit –
Sept. 20–Oct. 12 and Dec. 13–19
(area/counties: Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe, Calhoun, Jackson, Washtenaw, Wayne, Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Clinton, Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Gratiot, Saginaw, Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron, and those portions of Arenac, Bay and Midland counties within the South Zone boundary. **Excludes GMUs A & B.**)



Ⓑ Saginaw County Goose Management Unit

Oct. 11–Nov. 29
Quota—2,000 Canada Geese
Daily Bag—1 Canada Goose

Ⓓ Allegan County Goose Management Unit

Nov. 1–Nov. 9
Dec. 13–Jan. 22, 2004
Quota—3,000 Canada Geese
Daily Bag—1 Canada Goose



Harvest Information Program (HIP)

If you are planning to hunt any migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you must have a Harvest Information Program endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement automatically is included with the purchase of every waterfowl license. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated its intent to enforce this requirement throughout all 50 states beginning this year. Persons who are hunting migratory birds without this endorsement may be fined.

The HIP survey is used to increase accuracy in estimating harvest in each state and is important for state and federal efforts to manage migratory birds. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: “Migratory Bird Hunter Survey—YES,” is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. There is no cost for this endorsement. If the license agent fails to ask you the HIP questions, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:

- Ask the agent to reissue the license
- Visit the DNR e-license Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center.

Waterfowl Stamp Program

The Michigan Duck Hunters Association (MDHA) coordinates the Michigan waterfowl stamp program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. MDHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to waterfowl and wetland conservation. Proceeds from stamp sales will be used to fund MDHA projects, with 10% used to match DNR funding for purchasing wetlands.

The 2003 stamp features a pair of redheads (see guide cover) painted by Dietmar Krumrey. Purchase of these collector-edition stamps is voluntary and does not replace the state waterfowl hunting license. MDHA will mail waterfowl hunters a free copy of the stamp (if requested by June 1, 2004 and subject to availability) and a list of other available collector items if they send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Michigan Duck Hunters Association, Waterfowl Stamp Program, P.O. Box 20, Midland, MI 48640.



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan’s share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached almost \$150 million.

Equal Rights for Natural Resource Users

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan’s natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: HUMAN RESOURCES, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, BOX 30028, LANSING MI 48909-7528, or the MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS, STATE OF MICHIGAN PLAZA BUILDING, 1200 6TH STREET, DETROIT MI 48226, or the OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, 4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE, ARLINGTON VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. TTY: 711 (Michigan Relay Center). This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

REPORT ALL POACHING
Call: 800-292-7800
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

Waterfowl Status and Setting the Seasons

Recommendations for this year’s Michigan waterfowl seasons were developed by the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division with input from the Citizen’s Waterfowl Advisory Committee, the DNR Law Enforcement Division, and many other groups and individuals interested in Michigan waterfowl management. Concurrence with the recommendations was received from the Mississippi Flyway Council, a group of 14 mid-continent states that act in an advisory capacity to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. State and Flyway Council recommendations, along with written comments by individual hunters, were considered by the USFWS before seasons were announced.

The USFWS has final authority and responsibility for migratory bird hunting regulations in each state based on provisions of the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act. All rules and regulations presented in this guide are consistent with federal regulations and received approval by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission and the DNR

Joint State-Federal Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

RESTRICTION—No person shall take or attempt to take migratory game birds (including woodcock):

- With a trap, snare, net, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With any firearm except a 10 gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding no more than three shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells shall be plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.
- With the use of any single projectile shotshell. Bows and arrows are legal for waterfowl hunting.
- By the use or possession of more than one gun for each person in the hunting party.
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs who have been issued a DNR permit to take game from a standing vehicle may use a stationary motor vehicle, or stationary motor driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat, power boat, or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, or any floating craft or device of any kind propelled or towed by power or sail, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress there from has ceased. A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft while under power or until forward progress has ceased. A loaded gun shall not be transported in an automobile, aircraft, motorboat or sailboat, motor bike, tractor, ORV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- From a sinkbox. (A sinkbox is a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.)
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls, imitations of bird calls, bird sounds, or imitations of bird sounds. Use of electronically or mechanically operated decoys that do not produce bird sounds or calls are not prohibited.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or

Director.

Ducks. Continental duck populations are similar to long-term averages based on surveys of species breeding in the mid-continent prairie and parkland regions. However, most of the mallard, wood duck, black duck, and green-winged teal harvested in Michigan (about 80% of the total harvest) come from Michigan and more forested regions of eastern Canada. These duck populations have been relatively stable over the last several years except Michigan mallards, which have been declining.

Geese. Canada goose harvests are controlled by season length, daily limits, hunting dates and/or harvest quotas in all states to maintain population management goals. Michigan’s Canada goose harvest is derived from primarily three flocks, including the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJBP), and local giant Canada geese.

other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. Non-food imitations—for example, plastic corncocks—are not prohibited.

IMPORTATION—For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66 or contact Senior Resident Law Enforcement Agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3800 Packard Road, Suite 160, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one’s home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

POSSESSION AND TRANSPORTATION LIMITS—You may not possess or transport more than the daily limit of migratory birds at or between the place where taken and (1) your automobile or principal means of land transportation, or (2) your personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging, or (3) a commercial preservation facility, or a post office of common carrier facility, whichever one you arrive at first.

TAGGING; FULLY FEATHERED WING—No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- The hunter’s signature.
- The hunter’s address.
- The total number of birds involved by species.
- The dates such birds were killed.
- Current small game or sportsperson license number.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged. You may not transport any dressed or plucked bird unless one fully feathered wing is attached.

SHIPMENT—No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

SHOOTING OR HAWKING HOURS—No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

DAILY LIMIT—No person shall take or attempt to take in any

Michigan’s local population of giant Canada geese now supplies over 70 percent of the state’s total Canada goose harvest. The early September hunts and the 30-day late season in Southern Michigan are being permitted outside of the regular season for purposes of controlling local flocks of geese through recreational hunting.

The MVP flock breeds largely on Hudson Bay, Ontario, and accounts for most of our migrant goose harvest. The MVP spring population size was similar to last year but the proportion of breeding birds increased substantially. The Southern James Bay Population, which migrates mostly through southeast Michigan, was slightly larger than last year. The season format used in recent years helps assure Michigan goose hunters focus harvest on local geese and reduces the chance of exceeding the migrant goose harvest quota. Additional days of hunting were allowed in the MVP zone because of the expected greater fall flight.

one day more than one daily limit.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS—Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

WANTON WASTE—You may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve it and include it in your daily bag limit.

DECOYS, BLINDS, RAISED PLATFORMS

- You may not leave decoys set out between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. in waters of the Great Lakes and connecting waters, and lakes wholly enclosed by publicly-owned lands.
- You may not erect or use a hunting blind on any public waters without affixing to the exterior, in waterproof letters not less than three inches high, the name and address of the person who placed it there. Any unoccupied blind on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair may be used by the first person to occupy it each day.
- You may not leave any hunting blind or part thereof anchored or affixed to the bottomlands of any public waters within the state of Michigan prior to August 15 or later than January 16.
- You may not hunt waterfowl with a firearm from a raised platform except over submerged bottomlands. Blinds or platforms constructed over public waters must meet marking and removal requirements.
- You may not use or occupy a blind on the waters of the state that does not comply with marking and placement requirements.
- Contact the Plainwell DNR office (269-685-6851) regarding blind rules for Allegan County.

FEDERAL REFUGES—You may not possess or carry firearms or bow and arrow or hunt or kill any game during the open season for hunting and taking of migratory game birds on any national wildlife refuge when posted to prohibit unauthorized entry, except on that portion of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County on which goose hunting is authorized by a daily hunting permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CAUTION—More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact SPECIAL AGENT-IN-CHARGE, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, PO BOX 45, TWIN CITIES, MN 55111, Telephone 612-725-3530.

DUAL VIOLATIONS—Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

REFERENCE—Hunters should consult the actual federal regulations related to migratory game birds which are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

Falconry Season

Falconry is a permitted method of hunting migratory game birds. Rails, snipe, woodcock and geese may be taken during the established firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units. Ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens may be taken statewide by falconry during October 10 to January 10, plus March 1–8 in the South Zone. The daily limit is 3 birds of single or combined species. Possession limit is 6 birds.

Hunter Surveys

Some hunters are randomly selected each year to participate in state or federal harvest surveys, including collection of wings, tails, and other body parts. Accurate and complete reporting is essential for biologists to estimate the annual harvest and impact of hunting. Please do your part to help manage waterfowl by responding to surveys. The knowledge gained permits selection of annual regulations that maximize hunting opportunities while perpetuating healthy waterfowl populations for future hunters.

Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowners bordering the waterway and their invited guests. Float hunters need permission to enter lands protected by the Recreational Trespass Act. You may float hunt public lands open to hunting.

Waterfowl Hunting Closures

In Grand Traverse County, Boardman Lake and those waters of the Boardman River lying north of Airport Road and south of the 8th Street Bridge are closed to waterfowl hunting.

In Roscommon County, Mud Lake, Lake St. Helen and the South Branch of the Au Sable River connecting these two lakes are closed to public waterfowl hunting.

There are also other closed areas in the state. Each is posted to alert hunters that they are off limits to hunting.

Safety Zones Around Buildings

Safety zones are defined as all areas within 450 feet of an occupied dwelling, house, cabin, residence, or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt, or discharge a firearm within a safety zone or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird while the bird or animal is within a safety zone, without the permission of the owner or occupant of such safety zone. This applies to all hunters, including waterfowl hunters on lakes, streams, or rivers. The safety zone does not apply to target shooting or other non-hunting activities.

Non-Toxic Shot Rules

Use of non-toxic shot is required statewide for all waterfowl hunting. When you hunt to take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, rails or snipe anywhere in the state of Michigan during the waterfowl season, you may not possess or use shotshells loaded with a material other than non-toxic steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix or other shot determined by the USFWS to be non-toxic. Waterfowl hunters using muzzleloaders must also use USFWS approved non-toxic shot. Shells loaded with lead shot may be used to hunt other small game species, including woodcock.

Leg-band Reporting

Every hunter can promote sound waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded and/or neck collared ducks and geese harvested including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival, migration routes and contribution to the state harvest from different breeding grounds.

**TO REPORT BANDS, CALL
1-800-327-BAND
OR WRITE:
NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
BIRD BANDING LABORATORY
12100 BEECH FOREST ROAD
LAUREL MD 20708-4037**